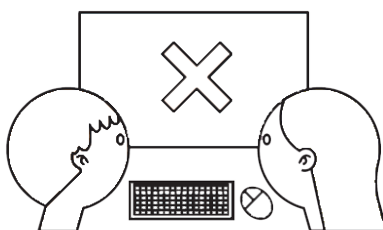


The protection of children against online violence

To mark the annual awareness raising Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Organised by the Italian Parliament & the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

*In the framework of the PACE project
“Parliamentary action for the rights of the child 2024-2027”*



9 December 2024

PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

CONCEPT NOTE AND DRAFT PROGRAMME

Venue:

Italian Parliament
Chamber of Deputies
Nuova Aula dei Gruppi Parlamentari
Via di Campo Marzio, 78
Rome, Italy

CONCEPT NOTE

Violence against children in the digital environment is an increasing phenomenon worldwide. New forms of violence, such as financial sexual extortion, have been identified while the age at which children are first exposed to sexually explicit content seems to be dropping significantly. Although access to the Internet is a great opportunity for children, its use can generate grave risks, including violence, exploitation and abuse.

In April 2024, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a report on “The protection of children against online violence”. Resolution 2547(2024) that accompanies the report calls on Council of Europe (CoE) member States to take concrete actions, such as the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework that protects children in the digital environment, the close co-operation with stakeholders in the technology industry and the enhancement of international and cross-border co-operation in protecting children from online violence.

The overall aim of the event is to improve the national follow-up of the different measures called by the resolution. It is also aimed at taking stock of existing good practices at the international and national level to better protect children against online violence.

In this regard, it is recalled that PACE resolutions are addressed primarily to member States of the Council of Europe and their authorities, including national parliaments. By adopting national legislation, scrutinising the compatibility of the work of national governments and parliaments with international standards and case-law and allocating adequate resources, national parliaments are key actors for advancing PACE agenda and better protecting children’s rights in CoE member States. By reasons of their privileged access to the national population, national parliamentarians are optimally placed to raise awareness of CoE standards at the national level and can contribute to increasing the level of acceptance of international and national measures that are taken in the best interest of the child.

The event is part of the CoE activities to mark the annual awareness raising Day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18 November).

Participants in the event will be PACE members, Italian parliamentarians and staff members of the two Chambers of the Italian Parliament. National and international experts, NGOs representatives and children contribute to the discussion. English and Italian will be the working languages of the meeting.

The event is organised in the framework of the PACE project “Parliamentary action for the rights of the child 2024-2027” which is funded mainly by the voluntary contributions of Germany, Poland, France and Cyprus.

PROGRAMME

2.00 – 2.30 PM *Opening remarks*

Elisabetta GARDINI, Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Head of the Italian delegation to PACE

Ilaria ANTONINI, Chief of cabinet, Minister for the Family, Birth Rate and Equal Opportunities

Carla GARLATTI, Italian Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents (*online*)

SESSION I: PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ONLINE VIOLENCE: STATE OF PLAY

2.30 – 3.30 PM *Moderator: Simonetta MATONE*, Member of the Justice Committee at the Italian Chamber of Deputies

PACE report on the 'Protection of children against online violence'

Joseph O'REILLY, Senator, PACE member (Ireland)

Follow-up to the PACE report by Italy

Simona MALPEZZI, Member of the Italian Senate, co-submitter of the bill for the protection of minors in the digital dimension (*online*)

Ernesto CAFFO, President of Fondazione SOS il Telefono Azzurro ETS

Marisa MARRAFFINO, Terre des Hommes Consultant and Digital Law Expert

Questions and answers session

SESSION II: CHALLENGES AND WAYS FORWARD

3.30 – 4.45 PM *Moderator: Georgios STAMATIS*, PACE member (Greece)

Protecting children from discrimination arising from intolerance, racism and violence

Francesco VERDUCCI, Member of the Italian Senate; Vice President of the Committee for combating intolerance, racism, anti-Semitism and incitement to hatred and violence; PACE General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance

Online violence and violent pornography: a gender perspective

Laura CASTEL, PACE member (Spain)

The experience of the Italian Postal Police

Maria Rosaria ROMANO, Director of Division II of the Postal Police and Cybersecurity Service

Preventing and combating online child sexual exploitation and abuse

Mark BEAVAN, Coordinator of Crimes against Children Unit, Interpol

The role of the technology industry and actions taken

Francesco CACCIAPUOTI, Tik Tok

Children's rights in relation to the digital environment

Triantafillos LOUKARELIS, Head of International Advocacy – UNICEF Italian National Committee

*Questions and answers session with the participation of **Carmen LEYTE**, PACE member (Spain) and **Georgios STAMATIS**, PACE member (Greece)*

4.45 – 5.00 PM COFFEE BREAK

SESSION III: CONCRETE EXPERIENCES OF CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMBATING ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

5.00 – 5.45 PM *Moderator: **Maddalena MORGANTE**, Member of the Social Affairs Committee at the Italian Chamber of Deputies*

Sanya BONELLI, National Children's Council within the Office of the Italian Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents

Matteo SPANO', President of the Italian Scout Federation

Giusy D'ALCONZO, Institutional Relations & Advocacy Manager at Save the Children Italy

Elisabetta GAVASCI SCALA, Vice-President of MOIGE - Movimento Italiano Genitori

Francesco MARCHIONNI, Deputy Presidential Advisor of the Italian Youth Council

With the participation of Italian and Irish children

Questions and answers

5.45 – 6.00 PM *Closing remarks **Elena BONETTI**, Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, PACE member, PACE General Rapporteur on child participation*

6.00 – 7.00 PM **VISIT OF THE PARLIAMENT'S BUILDING** *(reserved to PACE members and children)*